cost of Rs.2538.79 lakh. Against the central share of Rs.2089.77 lakh, an amount of Rs. 1560.62 lakh has been released so far to the State Government for implementing the projects.

(c) As per approved guidelines of this scheme, traditional milk societies in Kerala, engaged in procurement, processing and marketing of milk are not eligible for assistance.

(d) and (e) This Department has awarded evaluation and impact study of the scheme recently to the Centre for Management Development, Thiruvananthapuram, to assess the need for changing the norms and guidelines of the scheme.

(f) In view of the reply given to part (d) and (e), the question does not arise.

Measures for increasing crop productivity

1269. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government is taking to increase all crop productivity especially in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh like East Godavari, West Godavari and Visakhapatnam areas;

(b) the steps to be introduced to encourage the farmers to improve productivity; and

(c) the incentives to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Paddy is the main crop grown in larger extent in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh especially East Godavari, West Godavari and Visakhapatnam. To encourage the farmers to improve/increase the productivity of rice, following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh:

1. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

2. Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) under macro Management Mode of Agriculture.

Under these schemes, assistance/incentives is provided for various inputs like seeds, agriculture implements, water saving devices, integrated pest management, transfer of crop protection and production technology through demonstrations and training of farmers etc.

Efforts to increase production of pulses

†1270. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made efforts to increase production of pulses in the country during last many years;

(b) if so, the average annual amount spent in this regard by Government during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi